United Nations

Daily Highlights

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F R I D A Y  H I G H L I G H T S

- Security Council unanimously approves Secretary-General's proposal to increase strength of military liaison mission in Yugoslavia to a total of 75 officers; requests the Secretary-General to expedite his preparations for a United Nations peace-keeping operation to be deployed immediately after the Security Council decides to do so.

- Secretary-General announces administrative changes in Secretariat resulting in net reduction of 14 high-level posts, among other things.

- Secretary-General to attend Eighth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development which opens in Cartagena de Indias, tomorrow, 8 February.

- Margaret Joan Anstee appointed Special Representative for Angola.

- Security Council recommends admission of Republic of Turkmenistan for United Nations membership.

- Negotiation Committee for Biological Diversity Convention to meet in Nairobi 6 to 15 February.

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Security Council today reaffirmed unanimously its commitment to the Secretary-General's plan to deploy a United Nations peace-keeping force in Yugoslavia and approved his proposal to enlarge the group of military liaison officers there to a total of 75 officers.

The Council took that action by the adoption of resolution 740 (1992), which welcomed the Secretary-General's report that the cease-fire has been "generally observed, thus removing one of the obstacles to the deployment of a peace-keeping force". By the resolution, the Council requested the Secretary-General to expedite his preparations for a United Nations operation so as to be prepared to deploy it immediately following a decision of the Council.

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The Council noted that the letter of February 6 by Mr. Franjo Tudjman, President of Croatia, in which he "fully and unconditionally" accepts the Secretary-General's definitions of the conditions and areas where the United Nations force would be deployed, "removes a further obstacle" to the deployment of such an operation. It however expressed concern that the United Nations peace-keeping plan had not yet been fully and unconditionally accepted by "some in Yugoslavia on whose cooperation its success depends".

The Council also expressed concern at the indications that the arms embargo which it established in September 1991 was not being fully observed. States were called upon to cooperate fully with the Committee monitoring that embargo, including reporting any information brought to their attention concerning violations of the embargo.

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As a first phase in the process of restructuring and streamlining the Organization which the Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has initiated, it was announced today a series of changes in the structure and staffing of the Secretariat that will entail a net reduction of 14 high-level posts.

Spokesman François Giuliani briefed correspondents on the changes in the top echelon of the Secretariat: Effective 1 March, Antoine Blanca (France) is being appointed Director-General of the United Nations Office at Geneva, and will also head the Centre for Human Rights in Geneva. Georgio Giacomelli (Italy) is being appointed Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna, replacing Margaret Anstee, who is to coordinate United Nations activities in connection with the Angola Peace Accords. Ji Chaozhu (China) is being appointed Under-Secretary-General in the Department of Economic Development, which will incorporate various previously separate departments and centres involved with development, economics and technology.

Among other changes, two Departments of Political Affairs are being created, with separate geographical and functional responsibilities. They will be headed respectively, at the Under-Secretary-General level, by James O.C. Jonah (Sierra Leone) and Vladimir Petrovsky (Russia), with Giandomenico Picco (Italy) and Sotirios Mousouris (Greece) at the Assistant Secretary-General level.

The Office for Special Political Affairs, renamed the Office for Peace-keeping Operations and headed by Under-Secretary-General Marrack Goulding (United Kingdom), will be reinforced with the addition of an Assistant Secretary-General, a post to be held by Kofi Annan (Ghana).

Eugeniusz Wyzner (Poland) is being appointed Under-Secretary-General in the Department of Public Information. Jean-Claude Aimé (Haiti) will be Chief of Staff of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, and Alvaro de Soto (Peru) will be Senior Political Advisor, both serving at the Assistant Secretary-General level.

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Effective 29 February, the following offices and departments will cease to be separate entities and their functions and programmes will continue under different administrative arrangements: Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation; Office for Political and General Assembly Affairs and Secretariat Services; Office for Research and the Collection of Information; Office for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the Sea; Department of Political and Security Council Affairs; Department for Special Political Questions, Regional Cooperation, Decolonization and Trusteeship; Department for Disarmament Affairs; Department of International Economic and Social Affairs; Department of Technical Cooperation for Development; Centre for Science and Technology for Development; United Nations Centre on Transnational Corporations; Department of Conference Services.

The Spokesman noted that further announcements would be made soon regarding the Department of Administration and Management, and the Office of the Emergency Relief Coordinator.

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The Secretary-General left New York today for Colombia and will arrive in Cartagena de Indias tomorrow for the opening of the Eighth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD VIII). Mr. Boutros-Ghali is expected back in New York on Monday, 10 February.

During the Conference, some 2,000 delegates from more than 150 countries will be discussing the unprecedented economic challenges and opportunities of the 1990s and their potential for expanding world trade and promoting development. They will also consider the increased scope for reductions in military expenditures world-wide, broad support for market-oriented economic reform, advances in democratization, and growing respect for human rights.

A negotiating text to be considered during the session sees the climate created by those factors as conducive to laying the groundwork for a "new partnership for development".

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In a separate announcement today, Spokesman François Giuliani said the Secretary-General had appointed Margaret Joan Anstee to the post of Special Representative for Angola, effective today.

Ms. Anstee, who is currently serving as Director-General of the United Nations Office in Vienna, will coordinate the current and projected activities of the United Nations in connection with the Angola Peace Accords signed on 31 May 1991.

The Special Representative will be in overall charge of these activities and will also be the Chief of the United Nations Angola Verification Mission (UNAVEM II) whose task will likely be enlarged in the near future to include the monitoring of the forthcoming Angola elections. In this connection, the Secretary-General has asked Ms. Anstee to give priority to finalizing planning

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for United Nations observation of the elections, so that his report on the subject can be presented to the Security Council as soon as possible.

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The Security Council today recommended to the General Assembly that the Republic of Turkmenistan be admitted to membership in the United Nations. The Council took that decision, without a vote, in a separate meeting after its adoption of resolution 740 on Yugoslavia.

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Negotiators from more than 80 countries are meeting at the Nairobi headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) to thrash out a draft of a complete and comprehensive treaty to save the earth's biological wealth.

The meeting, which began on Thursday, 6 February, and ends on Saturday, 15 February, has brought together close to 300 international experts, who constitute the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for a Convention on Biological Diversity. This is their sixth round of negotiations on the text of the draft convention, and it is hoped that the final version, to be confirmed at the Committee's next session in May, will be open for signature during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Brazil in June.

The objective of the Convention is to conserve the maximum possible biological diversity for the benefit of present and future generations and for its intrinsic value, declares the draft document. It seeks to combine concern for international cooperation on conservation and sustainable use of biological resources.

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CORRECTION:

The item in the Monday Highlights of 3 February 1992, referring to Mr. Amos Wako's mission to Indonesia on 8 February, should be replaced by the following:

"Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has decided to send S. Amos Wako, Attorney General of Kenya and an international authority on human rights, to Indonesia as his Personal Envoy, in order to obtain clarifications on the tragic events which occurred in Dili, East Timor, on 12 November 1991.

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Mr. Wako's mission, which is scheduled to start on 8 February, will last for about a week, during which time he will meet with government officials, members of the Indonesian National Commission of Inquiry as well as with others concerned. Upon completion of his mission, Mr. Wako will report to the Secretary-General.

Mr. Wako will be accompanied by two officials of the United Nations Secretariat."

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